

The Example of Fathers

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Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

NOAH: choosing to obey
whatever the cost (Genesis 6–7)



This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God.

Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham and Japheth.

Noah did everything just as God commanded him.

And Noah did all that the LORD commanded him.

ELI: modeling selfishness
under the guise of service
(1 Samuel 1–3)



Eli's sons were scoundrels; they had no regard for the LORD.

Now it was the practice of the priests that, whenever any of the people offered a sacrifice, the priest's servant would come with a three-pronged fork in his hand while the meat was being boiled

and would plunge the fork into the pan or kettle or caldron or pot. Whatever the fork brought up the priest would take for himself. This is how they treated all the Israelites who came to Shiloh.

*This sin of the young men was very great in the LORD's sight,
for they were treating the LORD's offering with contempt.*

Now Eli, who was very old, heard about everything his sons were doing to all Israel and how they slept with the women who served at the entrance to the tent of meeting.

So he said to them, “Why do you do such things? I hear from all the people about these wicked deeds of yours.

No, my sons; the report I hear spreading among the LORD's people is not good.

If one person sins against another, God may mediate for the offender; but if anyone sins against the LORD, who will intercede for them?” His sons, however, did not listen to their father’s rebuke, for it was the LORD’s will to put them to death.

“And what happens to your two sons, Hophni and Phinehas, will be a sign to you — they will both die on the same day.”

SOLOMON: confessing
emptiness upon achieving
success (Ecclesiastes)



ZECHARIAH: stewarding
children for use in
God's plan (Luke 1)



*And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High;
for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for Him,*

to give His people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins,

because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven

to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.

And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

*Children are a heritage from the LORD,
offspring a reward from Him.*

*Like arrows in the hands of a warrior
are children born in one's youth.*

*Blessed is the man
whose quiver is full of them.*

These are the commands, decrees and laws the LORD your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess,

so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the LORD your God as long as you live by keeping all His decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life.

Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.

These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts.

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

*Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them
on your foreheads.*

Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

Godly fathers are central to God's
purpose. Submission to God's
design is essential for godly fathers.

